



Boroondara Writers Inc

Encourage, Support, Improve

A0061053C

June 2024

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, 29 June, 1 pm.

Greetings!

Thanks to everyone who voted for our Anthology title. The winner was... [drumroll]: To Write is Right. Thanks also to everyone who put forward their suggested titles too. We have two members keen to submit artwork for the cover and John Thuy will be in touch about that. Once we have cover artwork, the Anthology is well on its way.

We held our AGM at the last meeting. I'm pleased to confirm that...nothing has changed! John Thuy will remain on as Treasurer and I'll continue on as Coordinator/Secretary. We're in a good financial position and the \$40 annual fee will remain unchanged.

It's a quiet time for writing prizes and awards so I thought I'd dedicate this issue in response to a question Raya asked me about organising chapters. Stay well!

Sarah Craze

Are you on Facebook? Why not [join our private group](#)!

Chat and share your thoughts with other members in between meetings.

JUNE OPTIONAL THEME

Need inspiration?

Guilty

Interpret the theme as loosely as you like

DATES FOR 2024

29 June, 27 July, 31 August, 28 September, 26 October, 30 November

Meeting Room 1

Ground floor, Hawthorn Library

1 - 4.30pm

Competitions, Courses and Events

[Please note that we do not endorse the following opportunities, we simply pass on information]

WOODEND WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

7-10 JUNE

This festival has a Words and Ideas component featuring a variety of speakers including: Elizabeth Finkel, Andrew Ford, Peter Doherty, Gideon Haigh (who I have heard and is fascinating!), and Robyn Williams and Jenny Graves. There's also music too! [Visit the website](#)

WILLY LIT FEST

14-16 JUNE

The Williamstown Literary Festival (est. 2003) brings together readers, writers and book creatives of all sorts for an annual celebration of story-telling, author talks, panel discussions and writing workshops at a historic seaside setting. [Program link](#)

WRITERS VICTORIA

DATE: FROM 1 JUNE

Upcoming events at Writers Victoria that may be of interest, including: Autobiographical Poetry (1 June), Thriving with Imposter Syndrome (2 June), and Established Author Forum: Lessons from Theatre with Jane Harrison (13 June)

Location: Online (first two) and in person at The Wheelers Centre

Fees involved, [Visit the website](#)

2024 LORD MAYOR'S CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

CLOSES: 1 JULY

City of Melbourne Libraries is offering up to \$12,000 in prizes for a short story set in Melbourne, The Dorothy Porter Award for Emerging Poets, Narrative non-fiction, Life Writing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Stories by Trans and Gender Diverse writers. [Visit the website](#) for more information.

THE RICHELL PRIZE FOR EMERGING WRITERS

CLOSES: 7 JULY

Open to unpublished writers of adult fiction and adult narrative non-fiction. Writers do not need to have a full manuscript at the time of submission, though they must intend to complete one. The \$10,000 Prize will be judged on the first three chapters of the submitted work, along with a synopsis outlining the direction of the proposed work. You will need to describe how the prize will benefit your writing career [Visit the website](#).

All about Chapters

WHAT ARE CHAPTERS FOR?

- The first thing to know is that organising your manuscript into chapters is not compulsory. In fact, the [idea of chapters in books is relatively new](#).
- That said, chapters are a **practical way to give the reader a natural break** so they can come back refreshed and ready to read more.
- Each chapter forms a piece of the framework of your whole story so they also **help you control the story's pace**. This is why it's a good idea to think about chapter structure in the early days of writing your manuscript. This helps you give each chapter a purpose in pushing the story forward.
- There's **no rules** for how many chapters to have, word counts for each chapter, whether to number them or title them. It's entirely up to you. But remember: **the key is to make the book reader-friendly**.
- There's no rules for how to structure chapters either. In general, there are three types of chapters:
 - An expository chapter (often at the beginning) to introduce characters, settings and situations.
 - A transitional chapter takes the reader from one point in the story to another
 - A defining chapter occurs when you expose something integral to the plot (e.g. you reveal the killer, the main character comes to a profound realisation)

MEMOIR CHAPTERS

Memoir chapters can be tricky because you are telling a story instead of creating it. Often you started writing your life story without the intention of turning it into a book with chapters. You end up trying to retrofit what you've written into a chapter structure. You can also become very protective of stories. The phrase 'kill your darlings' refers to the process of eliminating the parts of your writing that don't serve your story. When it's the story of your life, it can be very hard to let go. But you're going to have to.

- The **key is to work out what the main threads of your memoir are**. Some examples: healing from a difficult childhood, surviving war, immigration experience, your personal love story, the death of a partner/parent/sibling, dealing with a diagnosis.
- Then under each of your main threads, **list the mini-stories from your writing that come under each of your main threads**.
- Next work out **the questions that need answers**. Have you explained how you got from one place to another? What about how you felt about things – or refused to feel as is often the case.
- These threads can be used to form the chapter structure of your memoir.
- More reading:

FICTION CHAPTERS

Once again, there's no hard and fast rule on structuring chapters in your novel. Your goal is to keep your reader engaged by any means you can. Think about:

- **The specific goal for each chapter**. Are you introducing a character, is it a major action scene, what is the point of the chapter?
- **Starting with action**. It doesn't have to be overly dramatic but it needs to have a sense of urgency.
- **Shaping around plot development**. Conflict between characters, a crucial discovery, ending with a cliffhanger are all ways to keep the reader interested.
- **Using the chapter title as a map for the story**. A chapter title can show where the story has come from and where it is going next.
- **The pacing of the chapter**. Shorter chapters focused on action and reaction keep the pace quick and the page turning. Longer chapters may help develop characters and illuminate back story.
- **Showing a different point of view**. Chapter breaks help alternate perspectives in your story, allowing different characters to take over as the main POV.
- **Keeping a balance within chapters**. If it is all action action action, the reader may grow frustrated that there's no explanations or broader context to draw from. If it's all explanation and exposition the reader can start to wonder when something is going to happen. Try to find a balance between show the characters in action and telling the reader what they did.

FURTHER READING ON CHAPTERS

There's lots of information online about plotting chapters. Here are a few suggestions:

[An Expert Guide to Plotting your Novel](#) from the Skill Share Blog

[How to Plot your Way through Writing a Novel Series](#) from Writer's Digest

[How to be more Intentional with Chapter Structure](#) from Good Story Company

[The 5-minute Nonfiction Chapter Outline](#) from Story Grid

[Pacing to Thrill with a Memoir](#) from BYU College of Humanities

[Tips for writing a Family History Book](#) from Daniel J Tortora